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PROGRAM

World News Wrapup

STATION WMAL Radio
AIR Network

DATE

July 9, 1975

8:00 AM

CITY Washington, DC

THE CIA AND THE WHITE HOUSE

NEWSCASTER: ABC News has been told by congressional sources that the staff director of the House CIA Committee believes he has seen evidence the CIA had a top level agent in the Nixon White House with access to the Oval Office and the President's thinking.

Details from Sam Donaldson in Washington.

SAM DONALDSON: ^{Senile} Staff Director ~~Gale~~ Fields sent a memo to ~~Committee members today saying that among questionable CIA actions is the Agency's infiltration of the executive.~~ Fields' memo did not elaborate.

Congressional sources say Fields saw CIA documents to that effect at the Agency's headquarters. The documents did not identify the White House agent but made it clear it was someone on the level immediately below a Haldeman or a Erlichman.

Fields would not confirm or deny the story, saying he could have no comment.

Sam Donaldson, ABC News, Washington.

*First TV hint
no name*

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File Said to Indicate C.I.A. Had a Man in White House

By JOHN M. CREWSON

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 9 — The Budget, the Treasury Department and the Commerce Department.

In another development involving the C.I.A., authoritative sources said, that Ashland Oil, Inc., permitted a spy for the agency to operate in Western Europe for some five years as an official of the company. [Page 37.]

A five-page memorandum prepared yesterday by Mr. Field for the 10 select committee members and made available today to The New York Times contained a reference that the source said was based on the document in question.

The memo contained a number of recommended areas of investigation, including "questionable matters not bearing on legitimate C.I.A. functions, but bearing heavily on American citizens," among which, Mr. Field wrote, was "infiltration of

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Several of the select committee members whose curiosity was piqued by the reference were reportedly briefed by Mr. Field yesterday and today on what lay behind it.

Mr. Field declined repeated requests from reporters today to elaborate on his use of the word "infiltration" or to say whether the White House had been the agency of the executive branch to which he had referred.

A C.I.A. spokesman would only say that "there was no infiltration," quote unquote. There was no penetration, quote unquote, of the White House" by his agency during the five and a half years of the Nixon Administration.

The source said that while he was not certain, he believed the document that contained the suggestion of a high-level C.I.A. operative inside the White House had been a report prepared by the Inspector General's office of the C.I.A., possibly sometime in 1973.

Another Possibility

The source pointed out, however, that although a "logical" reading of the C.I.A. document would lead to the conclusion that the agency had placed a covert informer within the upper levels of the Nixon White House, there remained a "slim" chance that the language, which was not entirely explicit, "could possibly have been read another way."

He also confirmed an account of the document yesterday in which Sam Donaldson, a reporter for the American Broadcasting Company, said that the C.I.A. infiltrator had ranked just below H. R. Haldeman, Mr. Nixon's chief of staff, and John D. Ehrlichman, his domestic adviser.

"It was the Oval Office" to which the man had had access, the source emphasized, and "not the White House."

Panel's Fate in Doubt

The future of the select intelligence investigating committee was plunged deeper into doubt today as the House Rules Committee met to decide the fate of the panel, which has been all but immobilized by the animosity between its chairman, Representative Lucien N. Nedzi of Michigan, and most of its other Democratic members.

Three weeks ago, the committee Democrats learned that Mr. Nedzi had been briefed a year earlier on political assassination attempts by the C.I.A. but, as head of a separate House subcommittee charged with overseeing the agency, had taken no steps to investigate the matter.

In an intramural committee move, the Democrats attempted to strip Mr. Nedzi of much of his power as chairman of the select panel.

Nedzi tried to resign his chairmanship, but his effort was rejected by the House. A resolution was introduced by Representative B. F. Sisk, Democrat of California, to abolish the select committee altogether. Today, the Rules Committee heard several hours of testimony on the Sisk resolution from Democratic and Republican members of the select committee, none of whom wanted to see it done away with altogether.

Among the proposals they tendered were the creation of a new select committee with a new membership, a limit on the jurisdiction of the panel that would confine its investigation to the C.I.A. alone, joining the House committee to a similar one in the Senate, and the creation of a stronger permanent body that would watch the C.I.A.'s future activities but not investigate its past ones.

The Rules Committee, on which there was general agreement that the present impasse between Mr. Nedzi and the others was intolerable, will vote tomorrow on which of the several alternative courses to pursue in abolishing or restructuring the panel.

In a related development, the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct voted today to begin an investigation of the circumstances in which Representative Michael J. Harrington, one of the select committee members, disclosed last year details of secret House testimony regarding covert C.I.A. political operations in Chile in 1970 and 1971.

Mr. Harrington, a Massachusetts Democrat whose access to similar classified materials has since been cut off by the House Armed Services Committee, of which the C.I.A. Oversight Committee is a part, called yesterday for such an investigation in the belief that it would vindicate his actions.

Still no name

FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM CBS Morning News

STATION WTOP TV
CBS Network

DATE July 11, 1975 7:00 AM

CITY Washington, D.C.

AN INTERVIEW WITH FLETCHER PROUTY

BRUCE MORTON: The President returns to Washington late Sunday and will undoubtedly find that the furor over whether the CIA did or didn't infiltrate the White House continues unabated.

Agency Director William Colby says that story is outrageous and vicious nonsense. Frank Church says his Senate Committee will investigate it.

On that on the CIA story, Daniel Schorr is with us in the studio this morning with something new. Dan.

DANIEL SCHORR: Bruce, with me at this early hour, and I'm grateful to him for coming in at this early hour, is retired Air Force Colonel Fletcher Prouty.

You were at one time the liason between the Air Force and the CIA. We have a document from the CIA's Inspector General of 1973 which starts by saying that for many years the CIA has detailed employees to the immediate office of the White House.

I would not expect you to know who was detailed to the immediate office of the White House, but can I ask you of someone who was in the immediate office in the White House, whose CIA background is not generally known?

FLETCHER PROUTY: I think the description would fit Alexander Butterfield, Colonel Butterfield, as I know him in the Air Force.

SCHORR: What was his CIA connection?

PROUTY: Assignments to the agency as a contact officer. This idea of being a contact officer for the agency to, as I was with the Defense Department, to open the doors for CIA operations. And he was a contact officer in the White House.

SCHORR: Of course you're aware when we're talking about Alexander Butterfield, we're talking about the man who almost two years ago today, two years ago next week, disclosed the existence of the presidential tapes which ultimately led to the undoing of President Nixon so that is a rather significant piece of information.

How do you know that he was with the CIA?

PROUTY: Well, I think the most recent indication of it was in 1971. I had a rather urgent requirement to get contact with the White House. And because of my long experience, 9 years experience with CIA matters, I contacted several of my very close friends who had been in CIA and told them what I had to do and how I wanted to do it. Without much delay they said we can set that up for you very easily. And I was told to see Bob Bennett in the Mullen Company, the CIA's public relations firm.

SCHORR: Yes.

PROUTY: I went in to see Bennett the next day and told him what I had in mind and that I needed to get a contact in the White House. Bennett said I have just the man that will help you and he called in the next office and said, "Howard, come here. I want you to meet Colonel Prouty."

SCHORR: Howard?

PROUTY: Howard Hunt. I had known Hunt, but I thought he was still on duty with CIA so I didn't signal any knowledge, I just shook hands with him. We talked for a few minutes and I described what I wanted. I was lunch time, we went over to the Army/Navy Club and had lunch. We discussed background, things we knew. And finally he said, "Look, we'll have no trouble getting into the White House." He said, "My contact there is Butterfield."

SCHORR: Howard Hunt, Watergate defendant, said that his contact in the White House was Alexander Butterfield?

PROUTY: Yes.

Now about a week later he came back to me and he said I've contacted him, arrangements are set, we can go ahead with our business. Well I knew Hunt was from the CIA, I knew Bennett was working with CIA and with the Mullen, works for CIA. The men that I had contacted, both Air Force retired Colonels who had lengthy tours with the CIA and knew all those people. So we're all in a community where we all knew each other.

SCHORR: What do air people generally do in the CIA?

PROUTY: Oh, one of the primary concerns, Dan, is CIA's clandestine activities with aircraft, with weapons, with people, bases around the world, that sort of thing. We had hundreds of people in that kind of work.

SCHORR: Did Butterfield, to your knowledge, ever work in the CIA's air division?

PROUTY: I'll tell you. Direct knowledge other than through other contacts, I would say I didn't have it, you know, like there's the record there. But through the other men that I knew, yes, he was a member of the same group of people assigned to that work.

SCHORR: Are you suggesting that his -- that his -- that his rank, which was like yours; Air Force Colonel, that his rank was not a true Air Force rank but one that the CIA got for him?

PROUTY: Oh, they -- they use Air Force colonels with true ranks, but they go on tours with what we call a seed dipping process. You make a file for the Air Force records and then you make a file for the CIA records. And in some cases, a file for personal records. And you keep the three things separate. A man doesn't necessarily have to leave the Air Force to spend years with the CIA or vice versa, a CIA career man can spend years in the Air Force. This is one of the difficult things. Nobody knows who they are.

SCHORR: But you do.

PROUTY: Yes. Oh, we had the central records on those things.

SCHORR: You have no doubt because if it isn't true...

PROUTY: Oh, I'll agree with you. No doubt about it. No doubt about it because the same men we worked with, the men I talked with; Hunt, Bennett, these two colonels that I approached, it was all the same thing, you know, he's one of our men.

SCHORR: Colonel Prouty, I guess you have no way of knowing whether President Nixon knew Alexander Butterfield, who worked in his office, was a CIA man?

PROUTY: I think that's one of the big problems. I would doubt Nixon or anyone else really knew it.

SCHORR: First, I'll tell you, we have tried, in the first place, to contact Butterfield very hard. He appears to

be traveling. We've not been able to reach him. We've also tried to get the answer to the question of whether President Nixon knew.

Charles Colson says that President Nixon did not know that Butterfield or anybody else in his immediate office worked for the CIA, although Colson says that after a while -- that is after the tape incident -- he began to suspect.

MORTON: Daniel Schorr, Colonel, thank you very much.

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MORTON DEAN [substituting for Hughes Rudd]: Our top story is in Washington and it begins with a big question.

Bruce.

MORTON: Mort, the question is: Did the CIA infiltrate the White House and other government agencies? The story, which circulated after members in the House Select Intelligence Committee said they'd seen documents which indicated such infiltration.

CIA Director William Colby issued a vehement denial.

WILLIAM COLBY: I say that's outrageous and vicious nonsense. The CIA has never done anything with respect to the White House that's not known to the White House. We obviously from time to time detail people there, but they go under the full control of the White House. And they're active there only as the White House directs.

MORTON: But earlier on this broadcast, a retired Air Force officer who handled liason with the CIA told Daniel Schorr that a high-ranking White House aide during the Nixon administration was a CIA man.

Dan.

SCHORR: Yes, Bruce, a report of the CIA's Inspector General in 1973 obtained by CBS News says, quote, "For many years the CIA has detailed employees to the immediate office of the White House." Unquote. This morning we interviewed retired Air Force Colonel Fletcher Prouty, who, as you say, used to be in charge of liason with the CIA. He said he couldn't say who was detailed, but he did know of one person in the immediate office of President Nixon with a CIA background.

[Film clip of previous Prouty interview.]

SCHORR: Well, Charles Colson, who is Mr. Nixon's former special counsel, told us that the ex-President did not know of anyone in his immediate office who was CIA. But Colson said that after the Butterfield revelation of the Nixon tapes two years ago that he himself, Colson, began to have some suspicions.

We tried to reach Mr. Butterfield, Colonel Butterfield, he's said to be on his way to California. But his wife told CBS News that the CIA story is ridiculous.

In this memorandum of the Inspector General, it also said that not only were professional people detailed from the CIA, but also clerical people.

We followed the trail yesterday of one of those clerical persons. The report said that the secretary to the Commerce secretary, Peter Petersen, had been CIA and that she had traveled with him on the trip to Moscow. We got hold of her last night. We traced her and we talked to her. Her first name is Mary. I see no great point in giving her second name. She admitted that she had been CIA while she worked for Mr. Petersen but said also that Mr. Petersen knew.

Petersen himself isn't around. His wife said, well, he -- he knew that she had some prior CIA connection. But also recalled that when Petersen started working in the White House as international trade adviser to President Nixon, he was rather surprised to find that Mary, his CIA secretary, was listening to all his telephone calls. Nevertheless, she worked very hard, he took her along to the Commerce Department.

After the Commerce Department, it appears Mary then went to work on Henry Kissinger's staff, working for Larry Eagleburger in the National Security Council. But Eagleburger said he wouldn't take her along to the State Department. She told me last night that she still is on the CIA -- CIA payroll.

Bruce.

MORTON: As Dan pointed out, Alexander Butterfield first became famous, of course, during his appearance before the Senate Watergate Committee almost two years ago when he revealed the existence of that White House taping system.

ALEXANDER BUTTERFIELD: I knew, when I was interviewed by your staff members on Friday afternoon, as I said earlier, that Messrs. Haldeman and Higby had preceded me in separate

but similar interviews. I certainly assumed that each had given an open and honest answer to that particular question, that I was being asked that same question so as to corroborate the fact. By that, I mean, there is a system. I only hope that I have not, by my openness and by my adherence to all instructions received to date, given away something which the President planned to use at a later date in the support of his position.

MORTON: There are these other developments in the CIA story. Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Frank Church says his committee will investigate the infiltration charge.

CIA Probers Eye Butterfield

By Norman Kempster
Washington Star Staff Writer

House CIA probers are investigating allegations that Alexander Butterfield, the man who disclosed the existence of the Nixon tapes, was a secret CIA contact at the White House.

A source close to the investigation said the staff of the House select intelligence committee has summoned retired Air Force Col. Fletcher Prouty for questioning today. In a telephone interview with the

Associated Press today, Prouty described Butterfield as the person in the White House whom the CIA would have contacted if the agency needed White House assistance with sensitive operations. But Prouty, a former CIA liaison officer for the Air Force, said Butterfield would not have acted as a CIA spy in the White House.

An informed source said Prouty had given his information to the House intelligence committee in recent days. The source also said the committee was investigating "other leads" concerning Butterfield's role.

In the interview, Prouty said top White House officials in the administration of former President Richard M. Nixon may have been aware of Butterfield's role as the person the CIA would contact "to get things done." However, Prouty said he was not certain administration officials knew about this role.

Neither, Prouty said, did he know for certain whether Butterfield was on the CIA payroll at the time. "You never can tell," Prouty said, adding that Butterfield's salary could have

been paid by the White House, the CIA or the Air Force.

Before the telephone interview, Prouty appeared on the CBS-TV "Morning News" where he told Correspondent Daniel Schorr he doubted that Nixon "or anyone else (at the White House) really knew" about Butterfield's CIA connections.

BUTTERFIELD was a key White House aide for much of Nixon's first term. But he was little known outside top administration circles until he revealed in testimony to the Senate

Watergate committee the existence of Nixon's White House taping system.

Two members of the House committee said Wednesday that committee staff members had seen evidence that indicated the CIA had infiltrated the White House with an agent. One of the lawmakers, Rep. Ronald Dellums, D-Calif., said the agent was in a top policy-making position.

Butterfield, who was a top assistant to former White House Chief of Staff H.R. Haldeman, could not be reached immediately for comment.

MEANWHILE, a congressman who receives regular briefings from the CIA said CIA employees have been assigned to a number of jobs — including some which are apparently far removed from intelligence work — in the White House and other government departments.

Rep. Lucien Nedzi, D-Mich., described the practice of placing CIA employees in other government posts to refute the claim by two lawmakers that the agency had "infiltrated" agents into the White House and other offices.

"This was done with the departments and in concert with them," Nedzi said. "To state that these individuals were infiltrated is irresponsible."

*First
printed reference
later in day that
Schorr used Prouty
on his show*

continued

BUT NEDZI indicated that although the department head knew the identity of the CIA employees, many others in the departments probably did not.

"It is no secret that CIA employees work 'under cover,' Nedzi told several reporters yesterday.

As an example, Nedzi said a CIA employee worked as secretary for Peter G. Peterson, President Richard M. Nixon's chief adviser on foreign trade. When Peterson left the White House post to become secretary of commerce, Nedzi said, the CIA employee went with him.

"This was known to him (Peterson)," Nedzi said.

A Commerce Department spokesman said a clerk-typist was "detailed" to Peterson at the White House and accompanied him to Commerce. The spokesman said Peterson's personal secretary at Commerce had not worked at the White House.

AS ANOTHER example, Nedzi said, a CIA employee "was with AID (Agency for International Development) over a 10-year period." He said the CIA tried to transfer the person to the AID payroll, but AID resisted, apparently preferring to have the salary paid from the CIA budget, which undergoes much less congressional scrutiny.

White House Press Secretary Ronald Nessen and CIA Director William E. Colby both also denied the charge of secret CIA infiltration into executive branch agencies.

But Dellums reiterated yesterday that he had been informed that information collected by the staff of the House Select Intelligence Committee included evidence of a clandestine program to place agents in the White House and other departments.

In the Senate, Chairman Frank Church of the Select Intelligence Committee said his staff will "immediately" begin an investigation of the charges of CIA penetration of executive agencies.

Dellums and Rep. Robert W. Kasten, R-Wis., both members of the House committee, said they base their statements on information provided by committee counsel A. Searle Field.

If the charges are ultimately disproven, it could destroy the credibility of

the House investigation, which already has suffered because of an often bitter internal dispute.

In an effort to salvage the probe, the House Rules Committee yesterday voted to disband the original committee and start over with a new panel increased from 10 to 13 members.

The objective of increasing the membership was to dilute the influence of a liberal bloc that includes Dellums and Rep. Michael Harrington, D-Mass.

IF THE HOUSE goes along with the Rules Committee, Speaker Carl Albert, D-Okla., would appoint the committee members. Albert could name an entirely different panel, but several sources familiar with the situation predicted he would rename most of the present membership.

NEDZI TOLD reporters that he assumed the documents he had seen were the ones on which Dellums and Kasten based their statements.

"I have satisfied myself that there is nothing that would suggest infiltration in this memo," Nedzi said. "I have nothing to substantiate that kind of charge and I don't believe there is any truth to it."

But Nedzi added, "I'm not saying that this (use of CIA employees in nonintelligence jobs) should not be looked at."

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